Latin American Studies 370: Brazil: Culture and Politics Fall Term 2011

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Office hours:
Professor López: Thursdays 10:30am-12:00pm, Wednesdays after class until 4:30pm, and appointment.
Professor Montero: Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., and by appointment on Moodle (for Skype hours).
To meet with both of us, please schedule an appointment for Wednesday afternoon (Skype conference appointment are also available).

Texts:
- Fausto, Boris: *A Concise History of Brazil*
- Machado de Assis, Joachim Maria *The Posthumous Memoirs of Bras Cubas*
- Montero, Alfred *Brazilian Politics*
- Vianna, Hermano *The Mystery of Samba: Popular Music and National Identity in Brazil*

Additional readings
In addition to the above books, a number of chapters and articles have also been assigned and are available either through e-reserves or J-STOR.


DAAB—see Museu...


McNee, Malcolm K., “A Diasporic, Post-Traditional Peasantry: The Movimento Sem Terra (MST) and the Writing of Landless Identity,” in *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* 14, no. 3 (December 2005), pages 335-353.


Philippou, Styliane “Modernism and National Identity in Brazil, or How to Brew a Brazilian Stew,” in *National Identities* 7, no. 3 (Sept. 2005), pages 245-264. [Academic Search Premier]


Souza, Maria do Carmo Campello de, “The Brazilian ‘New Republic’: Under the ‘Sword of Damocles’” in *Democratizing Brazil*.


**Recommended materials:**

The following list of additional texts on e-reserve complements books and articles assigned and will be useful when exploring research topics. There are also other books and films on general reserve that you may peruse at your convenience:


de Souza, Eneida Maria, “The Debate on Cultural Dependence in Brazil,” in Interventions 2, no.3 (Nov. 2000), pages 379-391. [Academic Search Premier]


Course description

This is the first of a two course sequence on Brazil. This course will study in depth the political-historical patterns of economic, social, and cultural development in Brazil from its colonial history to its current democracy and political economy. The case study of Brazil offers a wealth of lessons concerning the contradictions and possibilities of economic, social, and cultural development in the world today. We will explore these lessons both through its literature, music, architecture and the arts as they speak to the perils of the country’s insertion into global capitalism and in its political history that reflects the difficulties of creating and deepening democracy and building centers of political authority in the context of growing social inequalities and industrialization.

Assignments and other student work

While the main purpose of this program is to train students to engage in a substantial research project on Brazil, it also underscores the need to deepen knowledge and conceptual understanding of major ideas, historical periods, cultural and institutional tendencies in Brazilian studies. To that end, student work will be evaluated through a variety of methods.

Seminar presentations
Active participation as part of the seminar is a central enterprise of this program. Following the schedule, students will be assigned the responsibility of leading discussion on particular readings. This task will include preparing discussion questions before class and distributing them electronically to the rest of the seminar. Student discussion leaders will also be expected to prepare analytical remarks either in conjunction with the discussion questions or as a follow-up. No more than three students will act as discussion leaders during each session. All other students will be expected to follow through in their responsibilities to engage in discussion by preparing notes on the readings. Seminar presentations and discussion will compose the primary element of the participation score (see below).

In addition to presenting discussion questions and notes on the readings, each student will be asked to prepare commentaries on the films required in the course. There will be scheduled screenings for the films. If you cannot attend the screening, you must see the film on your own before class. All films will be on reserve in the Language Center.

*Oral exam*

As a culmination of the professors’ evaluation of student understanding of readings and discussions, each student will answer in a live, oral exam at least five questions during a single 30-minute session with both professors. This diagnostic is meant to provide a cumulative assessment of student knowledge.

*Take-home exam*

At two points during the term, students will be asked to select from a set of essay questions and prepare a 5-6 page written response per question within a time limit to be set by the professors.

*The research proposal*

As a research seminar, this course requires that students develop a deep understanding of a problem area or research question in Brazilian studies. To that end, by the conclusion of the term, each student will have assembled a 7-8-page proposal with a selected annotated bibliography. All proposals will include a research puzzle/question, a thesis/argument, a statement concerning the importance of this thesis, a discussion of the relevant literature, and a preliminary statement on the method to be employed in the research project. Some of you could have common areas of research and may do research in groups of two. However, the research reports will be prepared individually.

Projects in the seminar can be diachronic in nature, that is an issue that expands over a relatively long period of history, for example, the representation of black culture in a particular medium over time or the role of black social actors in specific parties or institutions; or the issue can be synchronic, that is it focuses on a phenomenon at a specific moment in time (it need not be the contemporary period), for example the rise of MPB (the protest music movement) during the transition to democracy or the emergence of an aesthetics of marginality under neoliberal conditions. All projects must account for the historical and political conjuncture (if synchronic in
nature) or for the changes in the political and cultural system (if diachronic). The strength of an interdisciplinary research proposal for this course lies in its ability to present a deft and comprehensive understanding of the political and cultural factors that affect the research question. Bear in mind that during your two weeks in Brazil you will be able to visit locations and listen and speak to scholars about your research interest and you should think of how to best use this informal information to enrich the research project that you will finish and present during winter term.

Each student will develop their research proposals in consultation from the beginning of the trimester with both professors.

The grade breakdown follows:

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<tr>
<td>Seminar participation</td>
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<td>Oral examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home exams</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>The research proposal</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Attendance and class etiquette:

- More than two unexcused absences in this course will result in an automatic 10% final grade reduction. Please always let us know if you will be missing class and the reasons for it.
- We expect everyone to be on time, prepared and ready to participate in class. Please bring no food or drinks to class. We will have a scheduled 5 minute break at 1:45pm in every class.
**Course Schedule**

### Week 1

**September 12**: Framing Brazil: Colonial Beginnings and Brazil in the Colonial Imagination

- Montero, chs. 1-2.
- Fausto, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.9,1.10, 1.11.

**September 13**: Film: Brazil: A racial paradise? @8pm in LDC 302


**September 14**: Analytics and Apagesroaches: Culture, Identity, and Dependent Development

- Roberto DaMatta, “‘Do you know who you are talking to?!’ The Distinction between Individual and Person in Brazil”

### Week 2

**September 19**: Literature in the Periphery of Capitalism: Machado de Assis

- Silvia L. López, “Peripheral Glances: Adorno’s *Aesthetic Theory* in Brazil”
- Roberto Schwarz. *Misplaced Ideas: Essays on Brazilian Culture* chapter s. 5, 6, and 7, and *Master on the Periphery of Capitalism* chapter 9

**September 21**: The Construction of National Institutions, Identities, and Economies (A Velha República até a Revolução de 1930)


*Recommended*: Fausto, 3.1-3.6.

**Week 3**

**September 26: Modern Culture and Identity**  
(Tupi or not tupi: da semana moderna até antropofagia)

DAAB: All documents, pages 592-607

Borsa Cattani, “Places of Modernism in Brazil”

Styliane Philiou, “Modernism and National Identity in Brazil, or How to Brew a Brazilian Stew”

**September 28: O Estado Novo and The Emergence of a National Political Economy**


Alfred Stepan, *The Military in Politics: Changing Patterns in Brazil* pages 57-84.


**Sunday, October 2: Film: Imperatriz do Carnaval @8pm in LDC 302**

**Week 4**

**October 3: National Cultural Projects of the Estado Novo: The Case of Samba**

Vianna *The Mystery of Samba*

**October 5: Democratic Breakdown (1964), State-Led Development and Its Crisis**


Fernando Henrique Cardoso, “On the Characterization of Authoritarian Regimes in Latin America.”
Saturday, October 8: TAKE-HOME EXAM #1 (by noon)

Sunday, October 9: Film: City of God @8pm in LDC 302

Week 5

October 10: High Modernism: the Reign of Concrete
Case studies: Brasília and Concrete Poetry
Guest: Professor Fabio Durão, UNICAMP, Brazil

DAAB: Documents pages 608-609 and pages 626-637.


James Holston, “The Spirit of Brasília: Modernity as Experiment and Risk”

Lauro Cavalcanti, “When Brazil was Modern: From Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia’

Lawrence J. Vale, *Architecture, Power, and National Identity* (selections)

Talk by Professor Durão:
**Towards a Model of Inclusive Exclusion: Marginal Subjectivation in Rio de Janeiro**
@5pm in the Athenaeum

October 12: Democratization and the Resurrection of Civil Society

Thomas E. Skidmore, “Brazil’s Slow Road to Democratization: 1974-1985.”

Margaret Keck, “The New Unionism in the Brazilian Transition.”

Maria do Carmo Campello de Souza, “The Brazilian ‘New Republic’: Under the ‘Sword of Damocles’.”

Week 6

October 17: Midterm break
Film: Terra em Transe @8pm in LDC 302

October 19: The Rise of a Counter-Culture: Cinema Novo and Tropicalismo

DAAB: Documents 610-614

Robert Stam and Ismail Xavier, “The Baroque, the Modern, and Brazilian Cinema”
Christopher Dunn, *Brutality Garden: Tropicália and the Emergence of a Brazilian Counterculture* chapter 3
Week 7

October 24: Political Institutions and Civil Society: A Feckless Democracy?

Montero, chapter 4.

Fabiano Santos and Márcio Grijó Vilarouca, “Political Institutions and Governability from FHC to Lula.”


October 25: Film: Garrincha: alegria do povo @8pm LDC 302

October 26: After Tropicália

Excursus: Soccer and national identity

Christopher Dunn, Brutality Garden: Tropicália and the Emergence of a Brazilian Counterculture chapter 6


Week 8

October 31: The Neoliberal State and Inequality

Montero, chs. 3 and 5.

Marcus André Melo, “Unexpected Successes, Unanticipated Failures: Social Policy from Cardoso to Lula.”

César Zucco, “The President’s ‘New’ Constituency: Lula and the Pragmatic Vote in Brazil’s 2006 Presidential Elections.”

November 1: Only when I dance@8pm in LDC 302

November 2: Dreaming Equality

Eric Kramer, “Spectacle and the Staging of Power in Brazilian Neo-Pentecostalism”

Robin E. Sheriff, Dreaming Equality: Color, Race, and Racism in Urban Brazil, pages 29-58

**Saturday, November 5: TAKE-HOME EXAM #2 (by noon)**

**Week 9**

**November 7: Citizenship, Movements, and Popular Responses to Oppression**

Montero, chapter 6.

Montero, “Brazil: the Persistence of Oligarchy.”

Kathryn Hochstetler, “Organized Civil Society in Lula’s Brazil.”

Anthony W. Pereira, “Public Security, Private Interests, and Police Reform in Brazil.”

**November 8: Waste Land®8pm in LDC 302**

**November 9: Aesthetics of Dispossession? Citizens and public culture**

Sebastian Salgado, *Terra: Struggle of the landless* (selections)

Malcolm K. McNee, “A Diasporic, Post-Traditional Peasantry: The *Movimento Sem Terra* (MST) and the Writing of Landless Identity”

Frederick Moehn, “Music, Citizenship, and Violence in Postdictatorship Brazil”

**Week 10**

**November 14:**


Paulo Paiva, “Lula’s Political Economy: Changes and Challenges”

Perry Anderson, “Lula’s Brazil”

**November 16: Oral Exams**

2-7pm in Professor Montero’s office
FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS: due November 20 by 5pm

Winter Break trip (November 26 – December 7)